

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02

DRC-01 COME-00 /176 W

----- 105105

R 100845Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5531

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARIO

USINT BAGHAD

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0864

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LE, IT, XF

SUBJ: MINTOFF'S MIDDLE EAST TRAVELS

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT, DOHA

REF: VALLETTA 0854

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS BASED ON WIRE SERVICE SOURCES

SAY THAT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF MADE A "SURPRISE"

VISIT TO DAMASCUS ON MAY 9 AND HELD TALKS WITH

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PRESIDENT AL-ASSAD AND OTHER SYRIAN OFFICIALS

ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS, ARAB-EUROPEAN RELATIONS,
AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES. HE IS SAID TO HAVE RETURNED
TO LEBANON ON THE SAME DAY.

2. REPORTS ALSO SAY THAT MINTOFF IS SEEKING
ARAB FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN A SHIPPING
COMPANY AND INCREASED USE OF MALTA DRYDOCKS
BY ARAB VESSELS.

3. ACCORDING TO GOM DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION,
MINTOFF IS SCHEDULED VISIT RIYADH MAY 10-12,
DUBAI MAY 13, ABU DHABI MAY 13-15, AND BAGHDAD
MAY 15 ON ROUTE TO ROME VIA ATHENS AND RETURN
TO MALTA ON MAY 16.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH REFERENCE TO A SHIPPING COMPANY
COULD MEAN SEA MALTA, IT MORE LIKELY CONCERNS MINTOFF'S
PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE SHIPYARD WITH ARAB
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.GETZ

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